



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Committee Bill No. 6276**

LCO No. 5307



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING IN YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-52 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) There is established a Youth Suicide Advisory Board, within the  
4 Department of Children and Families, which shall be a coordinating  
5 source for youth suicide prevention. The board shall consist of twenty  
6 members, which shall include one psychiatrist licensed to practice  
7 medicine in this state, one psychologist licensed in this state, one  
8 representative of a local or regional board of education, one high  
9 school teacher, one high school student, one college or university  
10 faculty member, one college or university student and one parent, all  
11 appointed by the Commissioner of Children and Families, one  
12 representative of the Department of Public Health appointed by the  
13 Commissioner of Public Health, one representative of the state  
14 Department of Education appointed by the Commissioner of  
15 Education and one representative of the Board of Regents for Higher  
16 Education appointed by the president of the Board of Regents for

17 Higher Education. The balance of the board shall be comprised of  
 18 persons with expertise in the mental health of children or mental  
 19 health issues with a focus on suicide prevention and shall be  
 20 appointed by the Commissioner of Children and Families. Members of  
 21 the board shall serve for two-year terms, without compensation. Any  
 22 member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent  
 23 of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have  
 24 resigned from the board. The Commissioner of Children and Families  
 25 shall be a nonvoting, ex-officio member of the board. The board shall  
 26 elect a chairman, and a vice-chairman to act in the chairman's absence.

27 (b) The board shall: (1) Increase public awareness of the existence of  
 28 youth suicide and means of prevention; (2) make recommendations to  
 29 the commissioner for the development of state-wide training in the  
 30 prevention of youth suicide; (3) develop a strategic youth suicide  
 31 prevention plan; (4) recommend interagency policies and procedures  
 32 for the coordination of services for youths and families in the area of  
 33 suicide prevention; (5) make recommendations for the establishment  
 34 and implementation of suicide prevention procedures in schools and  
 35 communities; (6) establish a coordinated system for the utilization of  
 36 data for the prevention of youth suicide; [and] (7) make  
 37 recommendations concerning the integration of suicide prevention and  
 38 intervention strategies into other youth-focused prevention and  
 39 intervention programs; and (8) offer a youth suicide prevention  
 40 training course not less than quarterly that any person may attend at  
 41 no cost to the attendee.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	17a-52

**PH**      *Joint Favorable*